

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 9-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6, and 13-17 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 17 is objected for a minor informality. Applicants have amended claim 17 per the Examiner's suggestion. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, and 9 -17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gribbon, U.S. Patent 5,589,142. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner alleges that independent claims 1, 2, 16 and 17 are anticipated by Gribbon. For example, the Examiner alleges that Gribbon teaches an intermediate matrix zone separate from the combustion zone, and "the intermediate matrix zone having a temperature reducing effect on the gases prior to entering the catalytic zone." The Examiner admits that Gribbon does not explicitly teach an intermediate matrix zone.

Gribbon teaches that a reduction catalyst 22, 24 (alleged by the Examiner as the catalytic zone) is disposed between a combustion chamber 26 and a VOC catalyst 18, 20. Therefore, whether shown explicitly or inherently an intermediate matrix zone must be disposed between the reduction catalyst 22, 24 (direction of the flow) and a regenerative chamber 14, 16. However, Gribbon specifically teaches that the regenerative chamber 14, 16 preheats emissions, and the preheated emissions are further heated by a burner 28 in the VOC catalyst 18, 20 for oxidation. Column 3, lines 52-57. Gribbon further teaches that the oxidized emissions are flow into the reduction catalyst 22, 24, where the oxidized emissions are mixed with ammonia and reacted while receiving heat from the burner 28; the same burner 28 that also heats the VOC catalyst 18, 20, which means that the temperatures of both the VOC catalyst 18, 20 and the reduction catalyst 22, 24 must be the same. Although not explicitly stated, the temperature of a distribution plenum 62, 64 must also be the same as the temperatures of the VOC catalyst 18, 20 and the reduction catalyst 22, 24, because the burner 28 also supplies heat to the distribution plenum 62, 64. There is no suggestion or teaching that the heat generated by the burner 28 is selectively controlled. Therefore, it must be assumed that the heat generated by the burner 28 evenly heats the VOC catalyst 18, 20, the reduction catalyst 22, 24, and the distribution plenum 62, 64.

The independent claims also recite that "said catalytic zone is separated from said combustion zone by said intermediate matrix zone." (Emphasis added.) For explanation and comparison purposes only, the Examiner will note that FIG. 1 of Gribbon illustrates the reduction catalyst 22, 24 is next to the combustion chamber 26. Therefore, Gribbon cannot explicitly nor inherently teach an intermediate matrix zone.

In addition, the independent claims also recite that the equipment includes "supply means to mix reducing agents with the gases to form a mixture and to supply the mixture." On the other hand, Gribbon teaches that reducing gases are supplied into the distribution plenum 62, 64 to mix with the oxidized emissions. Column 3, lines 62-64.

For at least the reasons given above, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 2, 16 and 17 are patentable over Gribbon. In addition, dependent claims 2-3, 6, 7 and 9-15 are also patentable for respectively depending on an allowable case claim.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant earnestly solicits reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the telephone number of the undersigned below.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$120.00 extension fee herewith.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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